West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Pocahontas County History ~~Chapter 5 Religion~~ Date Dec. 24, 1940

Research Worker Juanita S. Dilley Date Research Taken Dec. 2, 4, 10, 19

Typist Juanita S. Dilley Date Typed Dec. 13, 1940
Dec. 24, 1940

Source Deed Book 39 page 50 Date Filed

Mrs. Glen Tracy
Mrs. Snowden Tracy
Russell Gabert
Church records
Rev. I. Garber, the Brethern minister.

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va
Chapter 6 Religion

KERR MEMORIAL CHURCH-- BOYER

The Kerr Memorial church at Boyer was named for Leiut. Robert D. Kerr, a son of James Kerr, who graduated with distinction from West Point in 1898 and was assigned to the engineer branch of the service. He was ordered to the Philippines during the Spanish American war, but died on board a troop ship in July and was buried in the Pacific Ocean. An engraved metal plate on the pulpit bears these words,

"In memory of Leiut. Robert David Kerr
In the service of the United States, died
at sea on board the Indiana between Honolulu
and Manila on July 21, 1898. Age 22 years.
Asleep beneaththe blue Pacific waves,
Where deep the ocean keeps her many graves.
Gods loving eyes have marked and kept the spot,
The honored name that knew not stain or blot
Is written high on scrolls of deathless fame,
But safer still our Father keeps his name."

The dedd was made October 2, 1905 by M. P. Bock of the Bock Lumber Co. of Pennsylvania to James D. Kerr, L. M. Collins, Uriah Hevener,Jr., E. N. Ervin, M. C. Arbogast, Z. J. Nottingham, P. W. Yeager and Fred S. Bock, trustees of the Kerr Memorial church of Boyer.

The church was completed and dedicated during the year 1902. Much of the lumber for the church and the seats was given by Morgan Collins. Kenney Rexrode and George Mauzy were the

carpenters.

This church was locked at one time to bar the Church of God people and for a few years it was not used by anyone. During this time no repairing was done on the church and it depreciated very much. In 1939 the people of the community decided to have Cap, Andy and Flip, well known radio artists, to give an entertainment at the church to see if they could raise some money to repair the church. They were very sucessful so they decided to go ahead and collect or donate enough to do all of the much needed repair work. A new roof was put on, broken windows replaced, repainted on the outside, underpinned, floor oiled, new carpets put down, etc., until now it is in very good condition. Money donations toward this repair work were also made by Mrs. Harry VanOsdale, Mrs. Zack Nottingham, Mrs. Willia Wilmoth and Mrs. Vesta Nottingham, sisters of Robert D. Kerr.

The Methodist preach in the church one Sunday per month, and the Brethern preach in it two Sundays each month, though each go to the others services and they all work together in the Sunday school and young peoples meetings. Records show a Methodist membership of 32 for 1940. The Brethern membership is 92.

The present trustees are Daniel Ryder, Glen Tracy, Russell Gabert,

The present Stewards are Russell Gabert, Glen Tracy and Clay Lambert.

The Sunday school Supt. is Asa Wilfong, and the teachers are Daniel Ryder, George Cromer, Glen Tracy, Mrs. Glen Tracy, and Thelma Pugh.

They now have a good Sunday school and a well attended Young Peoples Meeting every Sunday night.

All money collected is divided half and half between the denominations.

I was up to Durbin to see Rev. I. J. Garber, the Brethern minister, and he said their membership of 92 at Boyer lived not only in the village but in the surrounding countryside as far south as Arbovale and Glade Hill. Their work in this community, he says, began at Brush Run. That for many years they used the Brush Run church, but the Church of God people did not cooperate and they then came down to the Boyer church and have used it since that time.